IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims Claims 25 to 48, 58, 74 and 75 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 63, 68, 72 and 73 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 62.   (Cancelled)

63.   (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus for controlling a printing device, comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of conflict process rules generated by ~~the~~ a conflict process rule generation apparatus ~~according to claim 58~~, the conflict process rule generation apparatus for generating conflict process rules that define conditions for avoiding a conflict between settings related to printing, the conflict process rule generation apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a principal rule that corresponds to a part of the conflict process rules; and

an inference engine configured to generate a complementary rule that corresponds to the rest of the conflict process rules based on the principal rule stored in said memory, and to additionally write the complementary rule in said memory,

wherein said memory stores the conflict process rules as a conflict process rule description file,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file is described in accordance with a predetermined markup language,

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<u>and wherein the conflict process rule description file describes a local rule which can be applied to a specific printing device, and a universal rule description file that describes a universal rule which can be commonly applied to a plurality of printing devices is externally referred to:</u>

a user interface for selection of print options; and

a conflict manager configured to resolve a conflict between the print options input via said user interface by applying the plurality of conflict process rules stored in said memory.

64.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the plurality of conflict process rules include a description of an update command of said user interface.

65.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 63, further comprising a user interface controller configured to control said user interface to change a display status of a display item of the setting state of the print option updated by said conflict manager.

66.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the change of the display status of the display item includes grayout or display/non-display of the display item.

67.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 63,

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wherein the conflict process rule defines a condition for avoiding a conflict between at least two print options among Collate printing, Group printing, Staple finishing and Booklet printing.

68.   (Currently Amended) A method for setting print options using a print control apparatus having a memory configured to store a plurality of conflict process rules generated by ~~the~~ a conflict process rule generation apparatus ~~according to claim 58~~, the conflict process rule generation apparatus for generating conflict process rules that define conditions for avoiding a conflict between settings related to printing, the conflict process rule generation apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a principal rule that corresponds to a part of the conflict process rules; and

an inference engine configured to generate a complementary rule that corresponds to the rest of the conflict process rules based on the principal rule stored in said memory, and to additionally write the complementary rule in said memory,

wherein said memory stores the conflict process rules as a conflict process rule description file,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file is described in accordance with a predetermined markup language,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file describes a local rule which can be applied to a specific printing device, and a universal rule description file that describes a universal rule which can be commonly applied to a plurality of printing devices is externally referred to, the method comprising the steps of:

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displaying a user interface for selection of the print options; and

resolving a conflict between the print options input via the user interface by

applying the plurality of conflict process rules stored in the memory.

69.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 68, further

comprising the step of controlling the user interface to change a display status of a display

item of the setting state of the print option updated in said resolving step.

70.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein

the change of the display status of the display item includes grayout or display/non-display

of the display item.

71.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 68, wherein

the conflict process rule defines a condition for avoiding a conflict between at least two

print options among Collate printing, Group printing, Staple finishing and Booklet

printing.

72.   (Currently Amended) A printer driver program stored on a

computer-readable storage medium, the program for setting print options stored on a print

control apparatus having a memory configured to store a plurality of conflict process rules

generated by ~~the~~ a conflict process rule generation apparatus ~~according to claim 58~~, the

conflict process rule generation apparatus for generating conflict process rules that define

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conditions for avoiding a conflict between settings related to printing, the conflict process rule generation apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a principal rule that corresponds to a part of the conflict process rules; and

an inference engine configured to generate a complementary rule that corresponds to the rest of the conflict process rules based on the principal rule stored in said memory, and to additionally write the complementary rule in said memory,

wherein said memory stores the conflict process rules as a conflict process rule description file,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file is described in accordance with a predetermined markup language,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file describes a local rule which can be applied to a specific printing device, and a universal rule description file that describes a universal rule which can be commonly applied to a plurality of printing devices is externally referred to, the program comprising:

code so as to display a user interface for selection of the print options; and

code so as to resolve a conflict between the print options input via the user interface by applying the plurality of conflict process rules stored in the memory.

73.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium that stores a printer driver program for setting print options for a print control apparatus having a memory configured to store a plurality of conflict process rules generated by the a conflict process rule generation apparatus according to claim 58, the conflict process rule generation apparatus

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for generating conflict process rules that define conditions for avoiding a conflict between settings related to printing, the conflict process rule generation apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a principal rule that corresponds to a part of the conflict process rules; and

an inference engine configured to generate a complementary rule that corresponds to the rest of the conflict process rules based on the principal rule stored in said memory, and to additionally write the complementary rule in said memory,

wherein said memory stores the conflict process rules as a conflict process rule description file,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file is described in accordance with a predetermined markup language,

and wherein the conflict process rule description file describes a local rule which can be applied to a specific printing device, and a universal rule description file that describes a universal rule which can be commonly applied to a plurality of printing devices is externally referred to, the program comprising:

code so as to display a user interface for selection of the print options; and

code so as to resolve a conflict between the print options input via the user interface by applying the plurality of conflict process rules stored in the memory.

74. to 75.   (Cancelled)

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